

Appendix D

Illegal Drug Related and Undocumented Alien Activities References

**Big Bend National Park
DRUG AND UDA CASES**

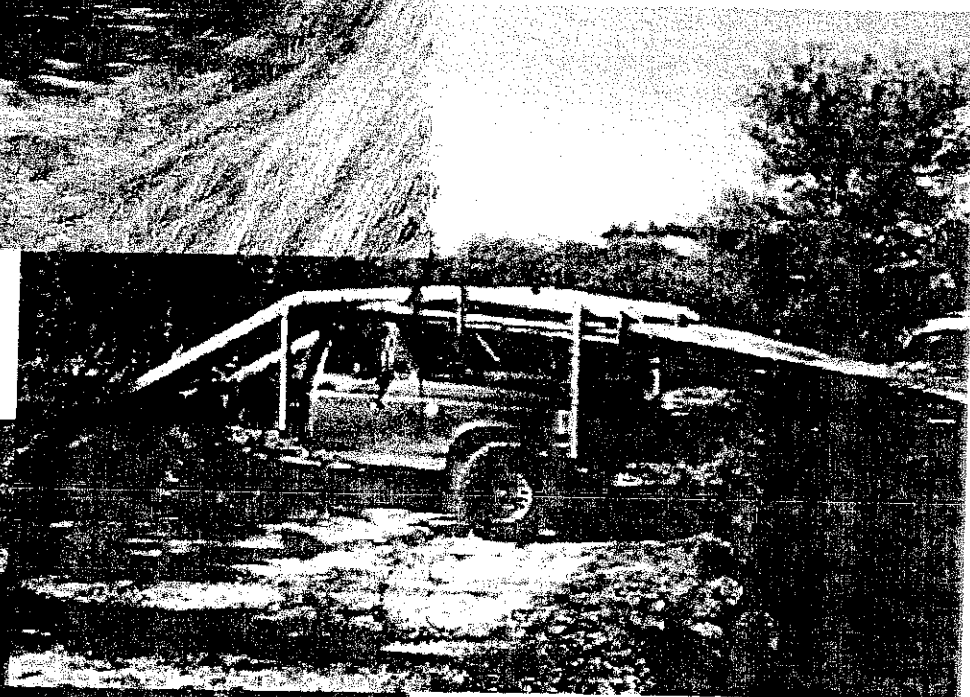
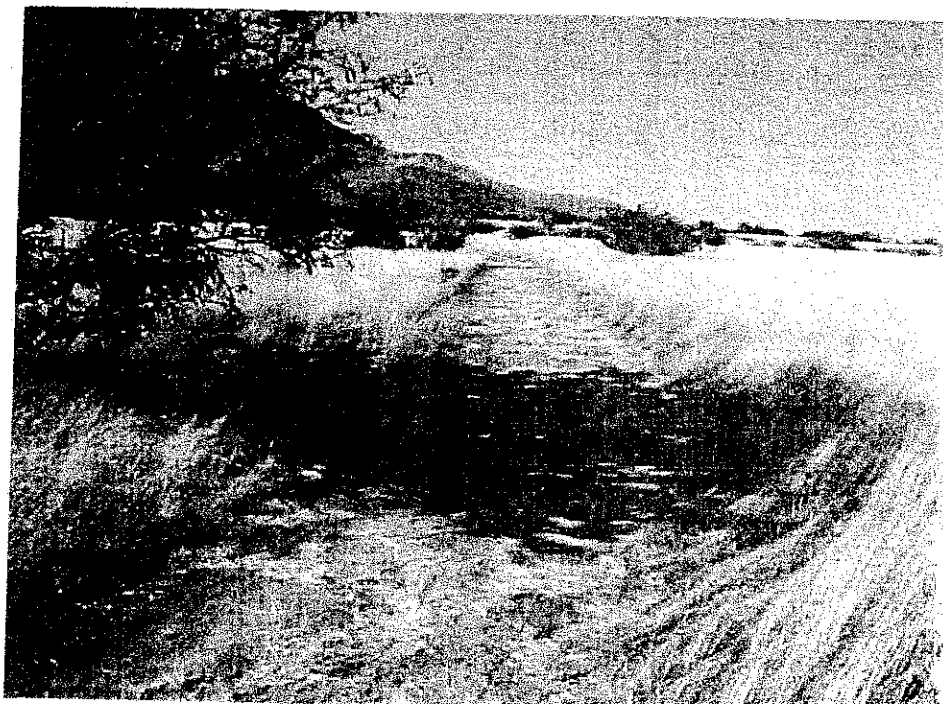
CY 2000	CY-2001	CY-2002
UDA – 395	UDA – 486	UDA – 951
Drugs- 5,400 # marijuana 4.5 lbs other drugs	Drugs – 4,763 lbs. marijuana 118 lbs. cocaine 2.1 lbs. peyote 418 Rx pills	Drugs 6,380 lbs. marijuana 400 marijuana plants 6.3 lbs. peyote

CY –2003 (to date)

**UDA – 973
Drugs – 13,864.94 lbs
1,123 volunteer marijuana plants
pulled from plantation site.**



Resource Issues in Southern U.S. Border Parks from Drug Trafficking and Undocumented Alien Activity



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APR 11 2003

April 2003

Management Summary and Recommendations

Natural and cultural resources are being damaged, stolen, and destroyed in at least 9 parks on or near the US- Mexico border. This is occurring in variable degrees in individual parks, as identified in the attached report, but all are affected and/or at risk, depending on locations of enforcement efforts and actions of adjacent land owners. Damage from drug smugglers and undocumented aliens takes many forms. Some are obvious - an historic corral dismantled for building materials, vegetation cleared and holes dug to serve as hideouts for illegal drug traffickers, new trails and roads created, historic resources burned, vegetation trampled, and trash left behind. Others are more subtle - endangered Sonoran Pronghorn excluded from water sources, water quality impacted by improper sanitation, threatened and endangered species disturbed, and artifacts stolen.

types of impacts

A complication for management in these parks is the fluid nature of cross- border traffic. Concentrated law enforcement efforts in one location may shift illegal traffic and resultant resource damage to areas formerly suffering little or no impact. Overall, efforts have been focused (for good reason) on visitor and employee safety. As a result, there has been less recognition of impacts to cultural and natural resources crucial to park significance.

Photo taken of Blankenship corral (ORPI) in 1992.



Photo of the same section of corral fence taken in January 2003. Note the amount of historic fabric that has been removed.

The National Park Service (NPS) has very little baseline information for what is being lost and destroyed. Cultural resources, once destroyed, are gone forever. Although natural resources may have some ability to renew, desert environments are very slow to heal; documentation of original condition will be essential in future restoration efforts.

limited format for recording this data. Further documentation, quantification, or cumulative analysis by a resource specialist rarely occurs. Clearly, this incident- based reporting does not represent an accurate way of collecting information about resource damage. And, by most estimates, only 1 in 10 violations are actually recorded.

Prior to the October 2002 meeting, only Organ Pipe National Monument had collected natural resource impact data in a systematic manner (an effort partially and temporarily funded by the Mexican Affairs Office) and had only one year of data. None of the parks were systematically measuring cultural resource loss or damage, even though some of the losses have been extremely significant.

3. Recommendations

It is apparent that the goal of obtaining credible information about loss and damage to resources requires that several specific objectives be met:

- coordinate regularly with NPS and other law enforcement entities
- establish natural and cultural resource baselines at each park
- establish natural and cultural resource monitoring programs at each park

To begin a strategy for monitoring resource damage/loss, Project Information Management System (PMIS) project statements have been submitted (PMIS #s 97049, 93010, 92372). These may provide a starting point for long- term monitoring of resource impacts. However, as many of the parks have noted, program development is needed for sustainability. Interim approaches could include:

- create "focus" teams, similar to Exotic Plant Management Teams, to establish and conduct cultural and natural resources documentation and monitoring programs.
- provide additional NPS funding and staffing to existing Inventory and Monitoring networks to address "threat- based" monitoring for natural resources.
- establish cultural resources inventory and monitoring program to address similar "threat- based" monitoring and documentation program for cultural resources.
- develop and/or enhance partnerships with universities, non- profit organizations, other federal agencies, etc. to enhance cost- effectiveness of monitoring program development and implementation.
- provide NPS funding to parks along the US- Mexico border for additional cultural and natural resource specialists

Regardless of approach(es), a cohesive program of documentation and monitoring must be instituted for cultural and natural resources in these border parks. The attached report identifies the many impacts observed to date at the park level, resulting from undocumented aliens and drug smuggling activities. As these activities shift through time and space, so will resource impacts along the entire US- Mexico border. A comprehensive strategy is needed now to understand these impacts on a landscape level.



Figure 1
Map of the NPS areas located in Texas and Arizona in proximity to the US- Mexico Border

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- None of the parks, except ORPI, have regular systematic programs in place to monitor UDA/IDT impacts. (ORPI has one year of data; the program is based on temporary funding and is directed at natural resource impacts. Monitoring is conducted by long belt transects across the park, 40 meters wide and several kilometers long; there are 5 oriented approximately east- west and 1 oriented approximately north- south. (A description of the ORPI program can be found on page 9, Monitoring Programs) (See figure 2)
- Negative impacts to cultural and natural resources due to UDAs and IDT are occurring in 9 of 11 parks. (AMIS, BIBE, PAIS, CHIR/FOBO, CORO, ORPI, SAGU, TUMA)
- Because there is no regular monitoring program in place (other than at ORPI), the case incident report form (Form 10- 343, version 08.05.93) has become the primary mechanism to document resource impacts. However, this form does not facilitate adequate data collection. Case incident reports do not routinely specify resource impacts and thus are not a definitive indicator of UDA/IDT activity. (A number of parks mentioned problems relating to the lack of direct and continuous sharing of information with resource staff and whether the information addresses resource impacts.) (AMIS, CHIR/FOBO, CORO, BIBE)

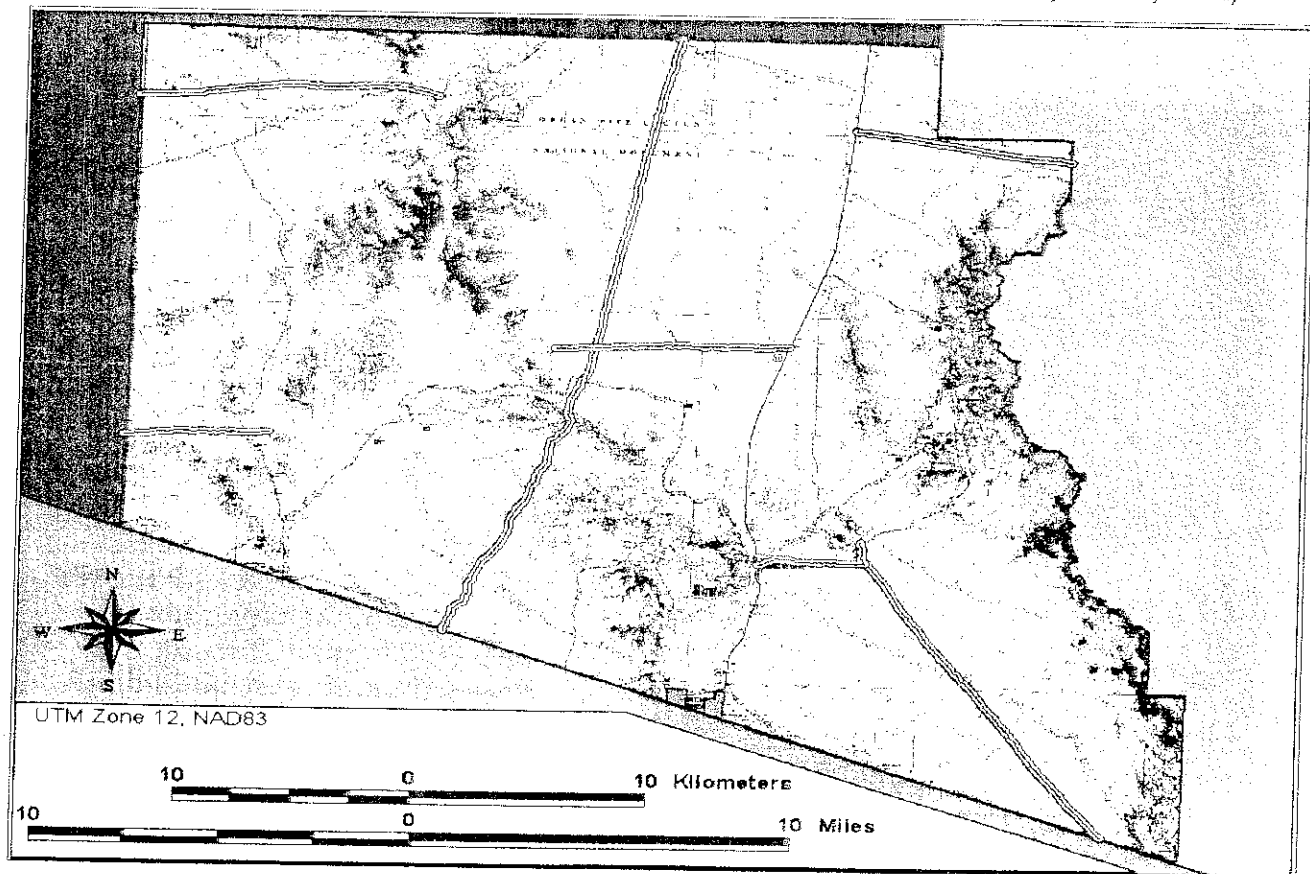


Figure 2. ORPI - Impact Transects

Transects distributed to cover different habitats providing baseline data about conditions/trends.

- Some cultural/natural resource impacts are obvious, while others are subtle. Obvious impacts include trails and trampling; burning, theft and destruction of historic resources;

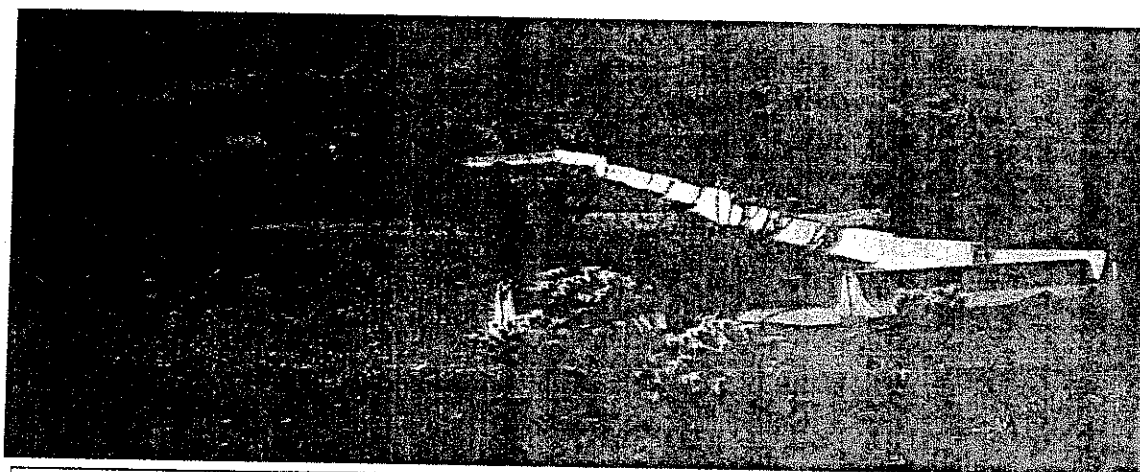


Figure 5. – ORPI Concrete Barriers
Note the new road bypassing the barriers.

- Terrain and geography play a significant role in the trails and routes taken by UDAs. The existing network of roads and trails are the most efficient means of travel. Paths of least physical resistance, such as washes, passes, saddles, etc., are also logical corridors for travel. (The Butterfield Stage route at FOBO is an example of a route, which has proven itself still viable after more than 140 years.)
- Nine of the eleven parks have cultural resources. Staffing levels for cultural resources at these parks is minimal, making it even more difficult to get an assessment of impacts.

The excerpts from the individual parks elaborate on the findings:

AMIS: Some of the areas where the regular trails/routes exist are known to have cultural resource significance. The impact is primarily to natural resources (trails, fires, and litter). Border Patrol has advised the park that the current resource damage has been taking place for at least two decades. No attempt has been made by the resource staff to systematically quantify or assess specific damages. The vast majority of existing documentation was collected for law enforcement purposes, is rarely seen by resource staff and typically does not contain quantifiable data on the extent or severity of damage to natural resources. There is no formal, resource based monitoring program targeted at this specific issue. (See figure 6)

BIBE: The answer to whether there are cultural/natural resource impacts as a result of UDA and IDT is difficult to address due to the vastness of the park and lack of resources to adequately assess the problem. Past evidence has been sporadically documented. Monitoring is informal or on a case- by- case basis. Direct and continuous sharing of

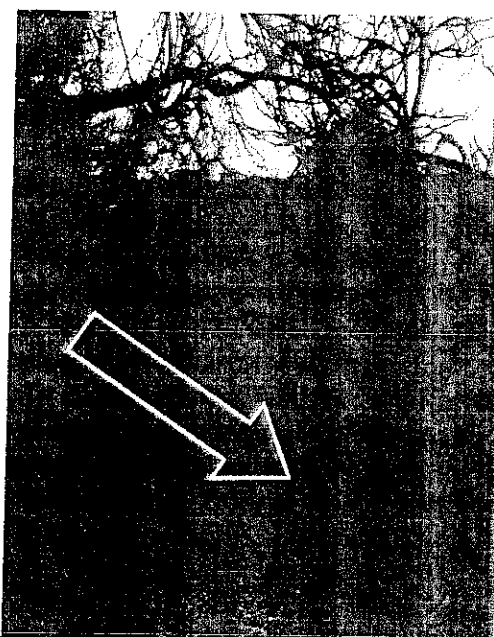


Figure 6 – AMIS Trails
Vast networks of smuggling trails near the lakeshore damage vegetation and access archeological sites.

transects. The Puerto Blanco Road scenic drive was closed through the end of December due to road conditions and safety concerns along the International Border and is now open limited hours: the northern portion from 7 AM to 2 PM and the southern portion from 9 AM to 6 PM. (See figures 8 and 9)



Figure 8 – ORPI
Extensive litter and waste.

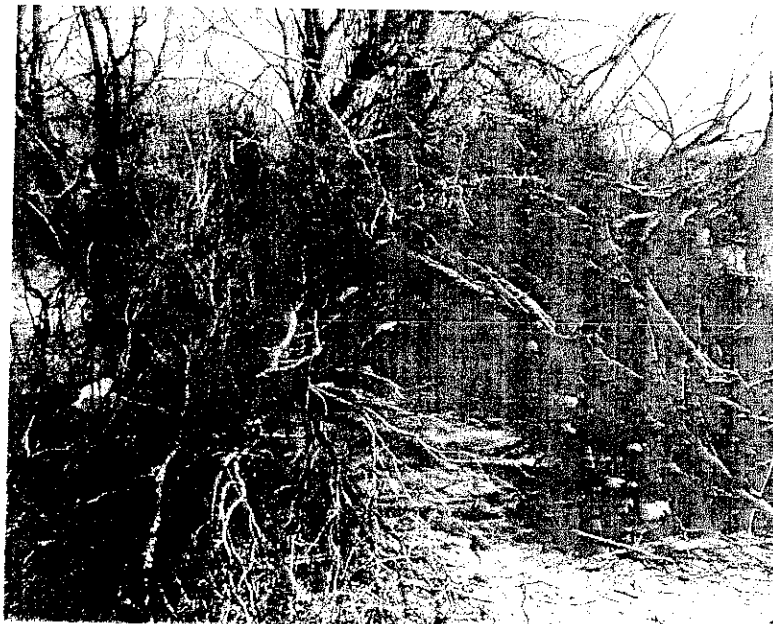


Figure 9 – ORPI
Brush shelter constructed by UDAs.

MONITORING PROGRAMS

The need for monitoring programs for resource impacts is one of the major issues addressed in this report; several parks offered comments on the type of program that would be necessary:

ORPI:

An overview of the ORPI program is described below, taken from the proceedings papers of the "Meeting Resource Management Needs: Fourth Conference on Research and Resource Management in the Southwestern Deserts, Extended Abstracts"

Life on the Border: Monitoring the Effects of Border Crossing and Law Enforcement on
Natural Resources

Bryan Milstead and Brian Barnes

May 2002

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument comprises 1,300 square kilometers of prime Arizona Sonoran Desert habitat. Due to high biological diversity the monument has been named a UNESCO world biosphere reserve and 95% of the land is federally designated wilderness. Organ Pipe shares 48 kilometers of border with Mexico and has recently experienced an explosive increase in trans-border activity. Problems were uncommon in the 1980's; there were only two enforcement rangers on staff and less than 20 Border Patrol agents in the area. In the 1990s successful border crackdowns were implemented near El Paso, San Diego and Nogales. These operations effectively reduced illegal traffic in highly visible urban areas and led to dramatic increases in the number of border crossers and drug smugglers in southwestern Arizona; as a result there has been a concomitant increase in law enforcement intensity. Today, the monument employs seven law enforcement rangers and the Ajo Border Patrol Station has 80-100 agents. During 2001, Border Patrol apprehended roughly 15,000 border crossers within Organ Pipe but estimated 150,000 - 300,000 people entered the monument from Mexico. Organ Pipe receives about 150,000 official visitors annually but issues fewer than 3,000 backcountry permits per year. As a result, "unofficial" wilderness use exceeds "official" use by at least a hundred fold. Increased traffic has resulted in the formation of illegal roads and trails, conflicts with wildlife, and damage to water resources, vegetation, and archaeological sites.

To assess impacts and suggest management alternatives we implemented a monitoring program in the spring of 2002. Our goals were to establish baseline conditions for public education and change detection. Five east west transects varying in length between 6.1 and 15.6 km were established. These were located in the four geographical corners and center of the monument. For comparison purposes one well worn north-south migrant trail was also surveyed from the Mexican border to our northern boundary. Transects were walked by a team of at least two people carrying a backpack differential GPS unit. All anthropogenic disturbances encountered within 20 meters of the transect center were marked on the GPS unit and described. For each point the GPS waypoint, extent of damage (major or minor), age (recent, weathered or historical) and frequency of use (single use or multiuse) were recorded. For trails, the number of recent users was estimated and the type of traffic (foot, vehicle, horse, bicycle, or ATV) was noted. Abandoned water bottles are a good indicator of activity levels so all were counted. Other types of trash were described and the amount estimated. Campsites and rest areas were also noted and the amount of area affected estimated. All fire scars were counted. Other types of impacts and interesting natural or cultural or natural resources were also marked and

the success of any investigation or monitoring program. When available, the immediate inclusion of resource specialists in law enforcement investigations could ensure proper identification of sensitive cultural resources or sensitive natural resources (e.g., Threatened or Endangered plants and habitat destruction). This timely information would help properly direct the investigation or enhance the potential for resource damage recovery costs through the 19jj process. When natural or cultural site impacts are identified, the application of resource based (ie: ARPA) investigation principles and methods can be initiated when practical. These methods directly involve the trained resource managers in identifying and assessing resource impacts before the resource damage or evidence is altered or contaminated by the myriad of other law enforcement activities occurring on the site.

A successful monitoring program depends upon first knowing the resources present. Intensive cultural/natural resource surveys are needed along the entire boundary and river corridor. Use of the GIS to model to capture and map years of local knowledge and experience of long time resident Border Patrol Agents would be invaluable. Documenting the known and the most likely routes through rugged terrain can assist law enforcement and resource management by determining the most appropriate locations for patrols and resource surveys and monitoring. The GIS can also serve as the repository of survey and monitoring data, which will facilitate timely data analysis and retrieval. The field ranger or resource manager can have GIS data readily available in a hand- held pocket PC with GPS attachment to provide up to date information on impact locations, to target high impact areas, and to document newly discovered impact data. The GIS data provides the information in formats allowing for easier display of mapped data, facilitating the planning of both law enforcement and resource monitoring activities.

PAIS:

A monitoring program to assess these impacts would likely require systematic gathering of data (location using GPS, extent of impact, photographs, type of impact, incident information name of perpetrator, reason activity took place, etc.), surveying of damage (what resources were damaged, which species, etc.), and routine monitoring of the recovery (what species are coming back, when, how is the habitat changing, etc.). Of course this would not be useful if it was not gathered for each incident whether or not someone was captured. A monitoring program would require additional staffing to not only patrol the area but also to conduct sampling and monitoring. Analysis of the gathered data could include basic statistics and reporting but having this analysis supplemented with GIS analysis would be more helpful. GIS analysis could demonstrate trends, presence and absence of activities, areas of impact, rates of recovery, etc.

The larger parks had impacts. PAIS indicated the impacts to cultural resources is likely limited and further states little information is known about possible cultural sites in the southern portion and at least one historic ranching line camp has been used by immigrants to avoid being seen. Natural resource impacts at PAIS include damage to sensitive barrier island foredunes, grasslands and wetlands causing changes in community structure, destabilization and the possibility of the introduction of exotic species. AMIS had impacts primarily to natural resources. (See figure 13) BIBE indicated the answer is largely unknown and added that compared to large scale impacts such as exotic species and hydrologic disturbances, impacts on vegetation and ecosystems in general are probably minimal at this point.

With reference to the degree of impact, BIBE indicated the answer was largely unknown, but impacts on vegetation and ecosystems in general, while minimal at this point, appear to be growing. PAIS currently has no data to quantify the impact, only that impacts occur in different areas of the park. AMIS knows that damage is occurring to natural resources and possibly to cultural resources. Natural resource damage has been documented with incident reports and digital photographs, however, no attempt has been made by the resource staff to systematically quantify or assess specific damages.

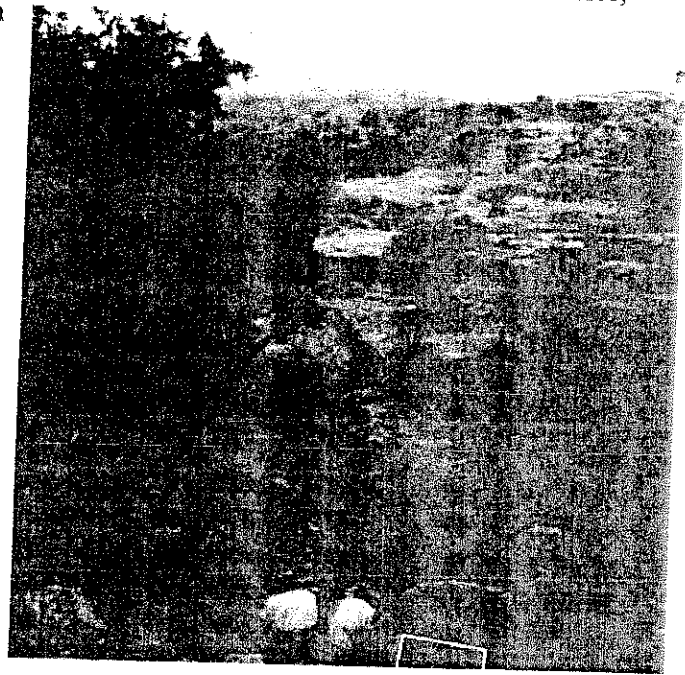


Figure 12 – FOBO
Arrow marks entrance road and sign – note trash from UDAs in foreground.

2. Is the park documenting the impacts in any way (photos, maps, GIS, narrative, etc.)?

ARIZONA

ORPI was documenting via all the methods listed in the question; the other responses were some, limited or none. At CHIR and FOBO the only documentation currently ongoing is through written reports of encounters or evidence of illegal activities; no reports or documentation of impacted resources is underway; many of the law enforcement reports on file do not address resource impacts.



Figure 13 – AMIS
Riparian habitat severely impacted by UDA crossings.

TEXAS

PAIS does not have a comprehensive cultural inventory for the entire park; an archaeological assessment was conducted in 1976 of the northern portion; a survey of underwater archaeological sites was conducted in the early 90's. PAAL has basic documentation related to GMP planning but no complete archaeology survey. AMIS has about ¾ of the park surveyed for archaeological and historic sites; less than 82 miles of the river corridor has been surveyed; only 2% of the park area has been intensively surveyed for cultural resources; a 10 year comprehensive sampling survey was initiated in 1995 and ran for 3 years, but was not completed due to lack of funding; the park contains over 1450 known archaeological sites representing the 2%. CHAM has a survey but there were negative findings.

6. Have the borders of the park been surveyed? Are the borders well defined? Are they fenced or walled?

ARIZONA

The eastern boundary of ORPI along the crest of the Ajo Mountains has not been well defined; generally there is fencing, although the fence between the Cabeza Prieta NWR was removed to facilitate pronghorn movement, but the posts were left in place to mark the monument boundary. The older sections of SAGU have been surveyed and the pre 1990 borders are well defined and fenced. Borders at FOBO/CHIR are fenced due to cattle trespass and marked with boundary signs.

TEXAS

Park owned property has been surveyed at PAAL with the exception of the latest acquisition. The park boundary at AMIS is at an elevation contour; less than 5 miles of the boundary is fenced (no fence lines were built along the contour line boundary) and there are some line of sight boundary posts. Only 35 miles of the 143 terrestrial boundary at BIBE have been established and monumented by legal land survey. The boundary on the eastern portion of PAIS is set at a depth of 2 fathoms while the western boundary is set at a given distance from the eastern boundary; the entire boundary along the northern, western and southern portions has been surveyed and marked with delineators located every half mile.

7. Are there regular trails/routes used by persons illegally crossing the border and/or smuggling drugs that cross known cultural/natural resource areas?

ARIZONA

Only on designated roadways (SAGU). One of the primary routes used by undocumented aliens runs along a riparian area in a steep side canyon of the park. Soil erosion and trash choke the drainage until heavy rains flush the debris farther down the canyon (CORO). ORPI referred to their Power Point presentation. (See figure 14) Trails at FOBO cross known significant cultural sites; the routes traveled vary widely throughout the site with impacts spread across a wide area. (See figure 15, CORO) At TUMA social trails exist in several areas running parallel to the river on the east and west.

At AMIS, smugglers and undocumented aliens tend to use the same trails, but new trails are created when Border Patrol installs sensors on existing trails; some of the areas where these trails exist are known to have cultural resource significance, generally along the Rio Grande and Pecos rivers. (See figure 16) Two routes in PAIS impact park resources: 1.) travel from South Padre Island across Mansfield Channel into PAIS and along a narrow corridor on the eastern portion of the park between the water and behind the foredunes and 2.) boat traffic near shore that parallels the coastline of the park. At BIBE there is general to specific knowledge of the routes and trails used, however, as enforcement efforts and smuggling counter measures interact, these routes become fluid; intensive surveys are needed to identify the locations of recent cultural/natural resource impacts due to illegal activity. CHAM has regular routes but they cross artificially landscaped and turfed areas.

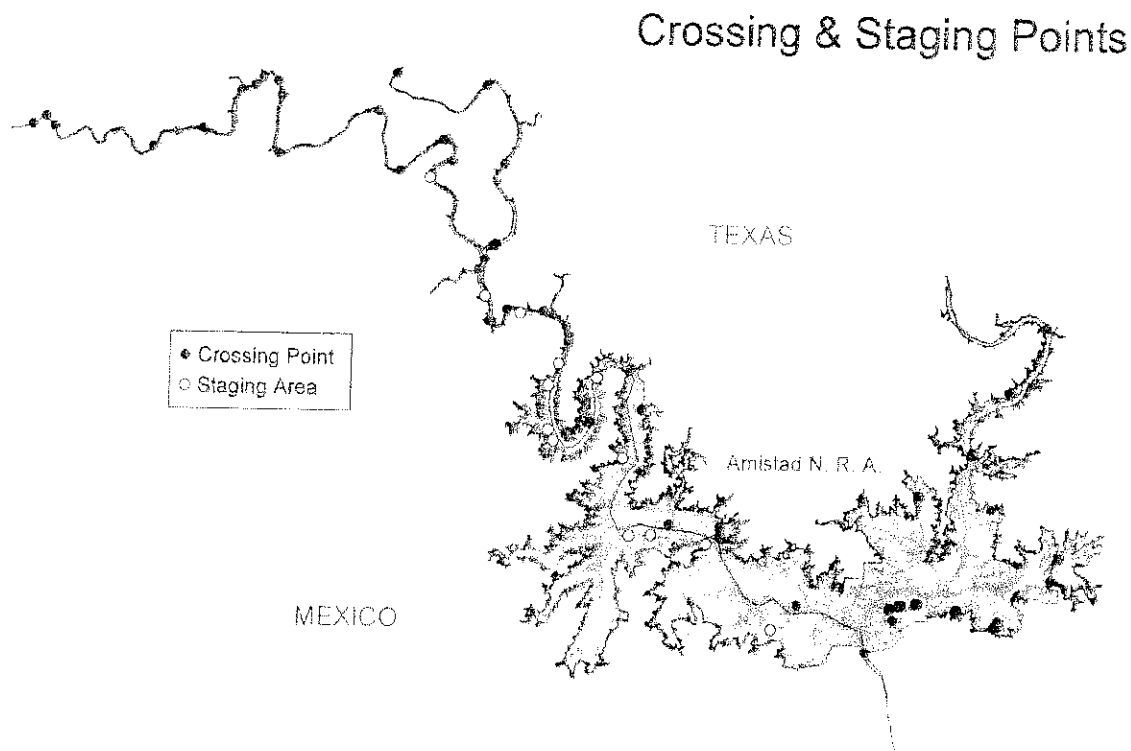


Figure 16 – AMIS
Crossing and staging routes across Mexico into Amistad National Recreation Area.

ARIZONA

QUESTIONS	CHIR	CORO	FOBO	ORPI	SAGU	TUMA
Are there cultural and/or natural resource impacts the park is experiencing due to UDA/IDT?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Minor impacts, mostly to natural resources - scattered trampling of vegetation and soils	Yes, litter and social trails
To what degree are UDA/IDT contributing to cultural and/or natural resource impacts?	Walk off trail leaving trash, destroy vegetation, disturb spotted owl nesting sites, building fires in areas that have potential for large conflagrations, unsanitary conditions in historic structures	Natural resource impacts are primarily from trampling or vegetation. Illegal trails are lined with trash and debris and cross foraging habitat for the endangered lesser long-nosed bat	Trash, trampling and unsanitary conditions	Along with cross border scavenging, UDA/IDT are the biggest threat to natural and cultural resources		Intermittent dependent on season. Social trails have created erosion and compacted soils. Litter is being washed downriver and causing flooding and channel changes.
Is park currently documenting the impacts?	No reports or documentation of impacted resources; many law enforcement reports do not address impacts, written reports of encounters or evidence of activity	A few digital photos, there is a 1996 aerial photo showing some trails. IKONOS satellite images from 2002	No reports or documentation of impacted resources, many law enforcement reports do not address impacts, written reports of encounters or evidence of activity	Yes, with maps, photos, GIS, narratives, etc	Limited - only in vehicle accident reports where damage to resources occurs	No
Has the documentation been incorporated into another report?		Some information was incorporated in the INS report Case incident reports log numbers of UDAs and amounts of drugs but do not document resource damage nor do they reflect the true amount of illegal activities		Yes, power point presentations and extended abstract for 4 th biennial conference on research in S. AZ	Motor vehicle accident reports	
Is there any monitoring program in place to determine cultural and/or natural resource impacts?	No, impacts intermittent and usually scattered	No	No, impacts intermittent and usually scattered	Yes, regular program, semi annually, long belt transects, 5 east west and 1 north south	Not oriented specifically to impacts caused by illegal activities	No
Has an intensive survey of cultural resources been done?	No	In 2001, a WACC archeologist did a condition assessment of cultural resource sites in areas heavily used for illegal activities. Historic ranch features had been damaged	Yes, in 2002 and a report is due in 2003	Only those on National Register and LCS and Quitobaquito	WACC has done detailed surveys of the Rincon Mtns and general surveys of the Tucson Mtn. District, which have been determined to adequately cover the entire park	No
Have the borders of the park been surveyed?	Not sure	Yes	Not sure	Yes	Older sections yes, portions of recent additions may not have been	Yes
Are the borders well defined, are they fenced or walled?	Fenced due to cattle trespass	West markers, east and south are straight, south fenced, east and west fenced south of road	Fenced due to cattle trespass	Some fenced, Cabeza NWR fences removed for pronghorn but posts remain, northern fenced	Generally yes, mostly older areas (pre 1990)	Walled partially and fenced
Are there regular trails/routes used by persons illegally crossing the border that cross known cultural and/or natural resource areas?		One of the primary routes used by UDAs runs along a riparian area in a steep side canyon. Soil erosion and trash chokes the drainage until heavy rains flush the debris further down the canyon. Historic ranch features are being damaged. Agaves (century plants) a sensitive plant species used by the endangered lesser long-nosed bat, are being destroyed	Trails cross known significant cultural sites, routes vary widely throughout the site with impacts spread across a wide area	Yes, refer to power point presentation	Only on designated roadways	Yes, social trails exist in several areas running parallel to the river on the east and west

APPENDIX

INDIVIDUAL PARK RESPONSES

Previous documentation and excerpts from recent reports are placed after the responses received from each park as supplementary information.

Amistad National Recreation Area

The NRA supports incredible biodiversity due to its location at the juncture of three Texas ecoregions. The close proximity of these areas allows very different plant and animal species to occur within the Recreation Area. Many animals utilize the area only during seasonal migrations. Thousands of Monarch butterflies roost on parklands before continuing their journey to wintering sites in Mexico. Many waterfowl species spend their winters on the lake before returning north in the spring. With 250 plus known sites within a 100 square mile area, the region has one of the densest concentrations of Archaic rock art in the new world and among the largest multicolored images in North America. The dry rock shelters of the Lower Pecos area harbor an unparalleled record of human prehistory that spans nearly 12,000 years.

RESPONSE-

1. Are there impacts (cultural/natural resources) that the park is experiencing as a result of undocumented aliens and/or illegal drug trafficking?
- a. To what degree are undocumented aliens and/or illegal drug trafficking contributing to impacts to cultural/natural resources?

We know that damage is occurring to natural resources in the park, and it is possible that some cultural resources are being adversely impacted as well. Park Rangers have documented the natural resource damage over the past several years with incident reports and digital photographs (copies of selected images are contained on the CD- ROM attached to this document). U.S. Border Patrol agents who work inside the park tracking undocumented aliens and drug traffickers have advised us that the current resource damage has been taking place for at least the last twenty years. The natural resource damage is occurring along the sections of the Rio Grande where access from the Mexico side is readily available, and travel on the United States to the nearest highway is relatively easy. No attempt has ever been made by the resources staff at Amistad National Recreation Area to systematically quantify or assess specific damages. For resource damage caused by deliberately set wildfires (to remove vegetation or clear paths), park staff follows normal fire reporting procedures for documenting and reporting fires. Information and maps related to 2 fires at the park that were attributed to UDAs are contained on the CD- ROM attached to this report.

c. What are the time intervals of the monitoring?

There are no preset intervals at this time given current staffing and funding levels.

d. What is the geographic area covered?

The entire Amistad National Recreation Area, which includes 58,500 acres and roughly 540 miles of river shoreline in 3 separate river valley. The park manages 82- miles of the Rio Grande along the border with Mexico.

e. If a monitoring program is not in place, please describe the type of program that would be necessary.

Assign two resource specialists (one natural, one cultural) at Amistad NRA to develop and implement a comprehensive Rio Grande resource monitoring program for a two- year period. The program should focus on the impacts associated with smuggling routes along the upper Rio Grande from Rio Grande mid- channel buoy # 14 up- river to an area near Langtry, Texas.

5. Has an intensive survey of cultural resources been done? If so, when?

Yes. About 75- 80% of the park has been surveyed for archeological and historical sites. Less than 45% of the 82- mile river corridor of the Rio Grande has been surveyed due mainly to the lack of a boat that can navigate the swift, shallow, and treacherous waters of the river.

6. Have the borders of the park been surveyed?

The Park boundary is generally an elevation contour of 1144.3 feet above sea level, which corresponds to the elevation of the spillway of Amistad Dam. Land acquisition for Amistad Reservoir began in the late 1950s. The physical boundary between park and private property around the 540- mile shoreline of Amistad Reservoir is identified by USGS brass- cap monuments placed at irregular intervals; less than 5 miles of the boundary is fenced.

a. Are the borders well defined?

No. No fence lines were built along the contour line boundary. Benchmarks are difficult to see in the brush. Some areas have recently installed line- of- sight boundary posts and signs.

b. Are they fenced or walled? Please describe.

No fences. No walls. Some line- of- sight T- post fence posts with boundary signs.

7. Are there regular trails/routes used by persons illegally crossing the border and/or smuggling drugs that cross known cultural/natural resource areas? If so, please describe.

Yes. Smugglers and undocumented aliens tend to use the same trails, but also are constantly creating new trails when U.S. Border Patrol installs sensors on existing trails. Some of the areas where these trails exist pass are known to have cultural resource significance. These areas are generally along the Rio Grande and the Pecos River.

farming settlement inside the park boundary. Wildfire impacts: the approximate 90- acre Jewel Fire was caused by the (marijuana) plantation growers this past spring.

a. To what degree are undocumented aliens and/or illegal drug trafficking contributing to impacts to cultural/natural resources?

The answer is largely unknown. Due to the size of the park, few natural resource impacts due to undocumented aliens or illegal drug trafficking are readily observed outside of known crossing points. A few small- scale impacts – such as a marijuana field in an already highly disturbed area and damage from a vehicle pursuit across the desert have been documented.

2. Is the park currently documenting the impacts in any way? (e.g. photos with dates, descriptions and locations; maps; aerial diagrams; GIS; narrative; etc.)

Yes. Rangers document resource impacts via the case incident reporting system. Significant cases have been fully documented through photos, mapping, GIS, and narratives.

a. Does the park have any historical data sources addressing cultural/natural resource impacts?

Ranger case incident reports document resource damage to some extent. In the past few years, only two significant incidents produced cooperative investigations of this type of impact. One was the documentation of a marijuana cultivation plot involving use of a GPS- equipped pocket PC to map the plot perimeter and relative location of associated disturbances such as a brush dugout shelter, hand- dug well, and social trails. These data were downloaded to ArcView GIS and overlaid on topographic map and digital orthophotography backgrounds. The area of disturbance was calculated directly from the GIS data. The other involved a stolen vehicle transporting UDA's that ran off across the desert in an attempt to elude law enforcement. The damage was documented, re- vegetation and restoration efforts were undertaken, and associated damages and costs were collected through the 19 jj process.

b. Are copies of any of these items available for use in this report?

Yes.

3. Has the documentation been incorporated into another type of report (e.g. incident reports, site surveys, etc.)?

In the case of the marijuana plantation, the documentation will be incorporated into a GPS mapping survey of the nearby historic farming settlement to be conducted at a future date.

4. Is there any monitoring program in place to determine cultural/natural resource impacts?

If this refers to impacts from illegal activity, only informal or case by case monitoring occurs.

a. Is it regular or intermittent?

Very intermittent.

b. How is the monitoring conducted?

Some effective monitoring of vehicle crossing patterns, foot traffic and other resource impacts occurred with the park aircraft. Drastic cuts in funding of flight hours coupled with the vacancy of the Ranger- Pilot position reduced this option. Future funding of flight hours for resource impact/GIS mapping of

intensive archeological survey. Only 35 miles of terrestrial boundary have been established and monumented by legal land survey.

a. Are the borders well defined?

The Rio Grande marks the 245 miles of international boundary with Mexico. The majority of the 143.3 miles of terrestrial boundary is remote, poorly fenced, and unpatrolled due to its remoteness and/or ruggedness. An unquantified amount of boundary remains unfenced. Much of the fenced boundary is unmaintained.

b. Are they fenced or walled? Please describe.

Only the 35 miles of terrestrial boundary involved in the above survey is properly fenced and correctly established according to legal land surveys. Fencing is strictly traditional barbed wire construction designed to exclude trespass livestock. None of the fenced areas are in the vicinity of the international border. The remaining 108 miles of indefinite terrestrial boundary must be established and monumented by legal land survey and proper fencing.

7. Are there regular trails/routes used by persons illegally crossing the border and/or smuggling drugs that cross known cultural/natural resource areas? If so, please describe.

U.S. Border Patrol and NPS Rangers have general to specific knowledge of routes and trails used, however, as enforcement efforts and smuggling counter-measures are imposed, these routes become fluid. The use of traditional border crossings is well known and monitored but most informal or infrequently used crossings are unmonitored or unknown. Intensive surveys are needed to identify the locations of recent cultural/natural resource impacts due to illegal activity.

Use of the GIS to map the historically most active routes through rugged terrain can assist law enforcement and resource management by determining the most appropriate or likely locations for patrols and resource surveys and monitoring. An intensive effort needs to be made to capture the local knowledge of resident Border Patrol Agents before they retire.

8. What is the average size of these groups passing through your park? (What are the total numbers of persons in these groups encountered per day/per week?) If specific data is not available, what is your best estimate of the numbers?

Big Bend National Park and the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River recorded 951 UDA apprehensions for CY 2002. This figure represents documented passage through the park by vehicle or on foot as well as apprehensions north of the park boundary. The UDA traffic is seasonal (Fall, Winter, early Spring) and most groups are small – two or three up to a dozen.

Chamizal National Memorial

The Chamizal Convention was a milestone in diplomatic relations between Mexico and the United States in 1963. Chamizal National Memorial was established to commemorate this treaty which resulted in the peaceful settlement of a century-long boundary dispute between the neighboring countries. CHAM utilizes the visual, literary and performing arts as a medium of interchange.

d. What is the geographic area covered?

Not applicable.

e. If a monitoring program is not in place, please describe the type of program that would be necessary.

Not applicable

5. Has an intensive survey of cultural resources been done? If so, when?

Yes, originally when the land was transferred from Mexico to the United States and when we landscaped and built facilities. mid- 1960's. Negative findings.

6. Have the borders of the park been surveyed?

Yes, directly in the middle of an urban area with roadways on three sides and the international port of entry bridge on the fourth side.

a. Are the borders well defined?

Yes.

b. Are they fenced or walled? Please describe.

South boundary has a low wall. Southwest corner has chain link fence. Half of Western side, all of North and East sides were, but are no longer fenced. Cement curbing along roadways designate boundary.

7. Are there regular trails/routes used by persons illegally crossing the border and/or smuggling drugs that cross known cultural/natural resource areas? If so, please describe.

Regular routes do exist, but again, they cross artificially landscaped and turfed areas with little to no impact.

8. What is the average size of these groups passing through your park? (What are the total numbers of persons in these groups encountered per day/per week?) If specific data is not available, what is your best estimate of the numbers?

Every combination of numbers from individuals, to pairs, to two dozen at a time who will gather and try to cross in numbers. This makes it more difficult for the Border Patrol or assisting Park Rangers to pick them all up and some "get away." The tunnel has been known to have up to 20 - 25 people in at a time. Lately approximately about 50- 75 UDAs attempt to cross the park each a 24 hour (day) period and there can be three to four times that many who "turn back" in that time period. Chamizal is located on the boundary of two Border Patrol zones so their data is difficult to extrapolate. Best estimate during the fall and winter has been 1,000 arrested and got- aways a month with 2- 3,00 turnbacks. UDA traffic increases during the summertime when we have concert events with large crowds and illegal crossings are attempted to gain an advantage by trying to mix in with the concert audiences.

sites creating a lag time for the two Rangers to discover new activity sites and report these to monitoring personnel.

5. Has an intensive survey of cultural resources been done? If so, when?

Yes, a survey of Fort Bowie was conducted in 02 and a report is to be written on FY03. Chiricahua however has had no survey and proposal for funding has not been successful to date.

6. Have the borders of the park been surveyed?

Not sure, but borders at both Parks are fenced due to cattle trespass in the area. The fences are well marked with boundary signs.

7. Are there regular trails/routes used by persons illegally crossing the border and/or smuggling drugs that cross known cultural/natural resource areas? If so, please describe.

Trails at Fort Bowie cross known significant cultural sites. It is presumed that in time these resources will become impacted from traffic not normal to the area. The routes traveled vary widely throughout the site with impacts spread across a wide area.

8. What is the average size of these groups passing through your park? (What are the total numbers of persons in these groups encountered per day/per week?) If specific data is not available, what is your best estimate of the numbers?

Average size 8 persons, twice to three times a week, again dependent upon Border Patrol activities/levels of enforcement

REFERENCES IN OTHER MATERIALS

The following paragraph was part of Appendix H (National Park Service) in the 2002 INS Report by the INS through the US Border Patrol, the US DOI, the USFS and the USEPA prepared in response to requests by the House Committee on Appropriations:

"Resource impacts continue to be a main concern as undocumented aliens leave quantities of trash, trample fragile plants and soils and create unsanitary conditions. Numerous illegal trails now exist at Fort Bowie and fences have been broken, fire rings created and vehicles off road travel is increasing."

Coronado National Memorial

The Memorial commemorates the first major European exploration of the American Southwest. The Memorial lies on the United States- Mexico border within sight of the San Pedro River Valley, through which the Coronado Expedition first entered the present U.S. in search of the fabled Seven Cities of Cibola. It is a cultural area situated in a natural setting comprised of 4,750 acres of grasslands and oak woodlands.

RESPONSE-

1. Are there impacts (cultural/natural resources) that the park is experiencing as a result of undocumented aliens and/or illegal drug trafficking?

Yes.

5. Has an intensive survey of cultural resources been done? If so, when?

In 2001, an archeologist from WACC did a condition assessment of the cultural resource sites in areas heavily used for illegal activities. The archeological sites were not being impacted; however, historic ranch features had been damaged. Because the historic features have never been documented, monitoring them is difficult.

6. Have the borders of the park been surveyed?

Yes

a. Are the borders well defined?

The west boundary is the most difficult, but there are a series of markers defining it, east and south boundaries are straight lines, north boundary is topographic along the ridge.

b. Are they fenced or walled? Please describe.

South boundary is fenced, east and west boundaries are fenced south of the road and for a little ways north of the road, until it gets steep.

7. Are there regular trails/routes used by persons illegally crossing the border and/or smuggling drugs that cross known cultural/natural resource areas? If so, please describe.

One of the primary routes used by undocumented aliens runs along a riparian area in a steep side canyon. Soil erosion and trash choke the drainage until heavy rains flush the debris farther down the canyon. Historic ranch features are being damaged. Agaves, a sensitive plant species used by the endangered lesser long-nosed bat, are being destroyed.

8. What is the average size of these groups passing through your park? (What are the total numbers of persons in these groups encountered per day/per week?) If specific data is not available, what is your best estimate of the numbers?

The size of the groups is based on variables such as the current status of the economy, weather, and time of year. Groups are generally 15-30, although historically groups have ranged up to 150-200. We estimate approximately 150 people per day cross the park illegally.

REFERENCES IN OTHER MATERIALS

1. The following paragraph was part of Appendix H (National Park Service) in the 2002 INS Report by the INS through the US Border Patrol, the US DOI, the USFS and the USEPA prepared in response to requests by the House Committee on Appropriations:

"The park maintains seven miles of trails and has at least another five miles of illegal trails made by smugglers. Several of these trails are as wide as one-lane roads, while many narrower trails cover some parts of the park like spider webs. This network of trails crosses the park from the southern boundary with Mexico to the northern boundary where the trails converge and enter the Coronado National Forest. This concentrates most of the illegal foot traffic in a steep riparian canyon with a natural spring, one of the few sources of water in the park available to wildlife. Vegetation has been destroyed, bare ground exposed, and steep hillsides eroded. Litter, human feces and toilet paper cover the ground in many places."

4. Is there any monitoring program in place to determine cultural/natural resource impacts?

Yes

a. Is it regular or intermittent?

Regular; Semiannually; October/May

b. How is the monitoring conducted?

Long belt transects across the Monument, 40 m wide and several km long; 5 approximately east-west in orientation and 1 approximately north-south.

c. What are the time intervals of the monitoring?

October and May.

d. What is the geographic area covered?

Refer to PowerPoint presentation in your possession (See figure 2, ORPI)

e. If a monitoring program is not in place, please describe the type of program that would be necessary.

N/A

5. Has an intensive survey of cultural resources been done? If so, when?

Only those on National Register and List of Classified structures and Quitobacquito.

6. Have the borders of the park been surveyed?

Yes

a. Are the borders well defined?

Not along the crest of the Ajo Mountains (eastern boundary)

b. Are they fenced or walled? Please describe.

Some fences are in place but are difficult to maintain. There are many breaks in the southern boundary fence, but the remaining fence posts, along with the boundary marker "obelisks" define the southern boundary. Fences between us and Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge were removed to facilitate pronghorn movement, but the fence posts were left to mark the monument boundary. The northern boundary is fenced to keep out livestock from the BLM range to the north. It is kept repaired for the most part.

7. Are there regular trails/routes used by persons illegally crossing the border and/or smuggling drugs that cross known cultural/natural resource areas? If so, please describe.

Refer to PowerPoint presentation in your possession. (See figure 14, ORPI)

1/5/03: "A white mini van traveling north on Route 85 on January 5, 2003 turned around in traffic in front of a patrol car and headed south at a high rate of speed.... The van headed for Mexico at speeds up to 110 mph.... The van traveled another half mile before leaving the highway and continuing for another tenth of a mile off- road, causing a significant amount of resource damage...."

3. The 2002 Cultural landscapes Inventory- Blankenship:

"The overall condition of the cultural landscape is poor. Structures are in disrepair and have deteriorated rapidly over the course of the last several years. The cultural landscape has deteriorated during the period of significance from the results of undocumented border crossings...."

"There are several remnants of roads around the ranch house....Several well worn footpaths run from Mexico, north through the project site, towards Sweetwater Pass. These trails have been created by, and are still used by undocumented persons crossing the border."

4. The 2001 Drug Law Enforcement Report (USDOJ)

"This proliferation of trails and roads damages and destroys cactus and other sensitive vegetation, disrupts or prohibits re- vegetation efforts, disturbs wildlife and their cover and travel routes, causes soil compaction and erosion, impacts stream bank stability.... Picture 3 shows tracks from vehicles used to smuggle drugs."

5. November 19, 1985 ruins maintenance inspection, George Chambers, Cultural Resources Specialist, Division of Archaeology:

"Blankenship Barn: Mexicans from south of the border have recently removed and carried off all siding from the north and south walls of the barn, along with 2" x 6" interior wood bracing installed in 1984.... Blankenship Corral: After complete repair of the corral, and within two days after completion of a linseed oil treatment for the wood, approximately 70 linear feet of mesquite posts from the corral were stolen and apparently carried south across the border."

6. March 9, 1993 memorandum from R. Clay Cunningham, General Superintendent, Southern Arizona Group Office, titled "External Threats to Park Resources and 1993 Site Visits by Southern Arizona Group Archaeologist":

"Jim (archaeologist Jim Rancier) has reported cases of vandalism at backcountry historical sites of Bates Well Ranch and Victoria Mine since 1991. The vandalism may be caused by undocumented aliens in transit through the monument or visitors....Bates Well is a site thought to be used regularly by transient aliens. Wood from the corrals at Blankenship Ranch and Gachado Line Camp is being stolen at increasing rates. The estimate for this loss is in excess of 10 cords of wood in the past month hauled across the border which is in sight of both properties."

Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site

On May 8, 1846 troops of the United States and Mexico clashed on the prairie of Palo Alto in the first battle of a two- year war. Signed into law in June 1992, Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site preserves the 3,400- acre scene of this clash between nations and informs visitors about its national and international importance. As the only unit of the National Park Service with a primary focus on the U.S.- Mexican War, Palo Alto Battlefield also interprets the entire conflict- - including the details of its origins and the broad range of consequences.

d. What is the geographic area covered?

Park owned property

e. If a monitoring program is not in place, please describe the type of program that would be necessary.

Park is seeking to hire protection personnel to establish need and type of program. At this point monitoring needs are simply for daily drive throughs of the park

5. Has an intensive survey of cultural resources been done? If so, when?

Park has basic documentation related to GMP planning, dating to 1995 but no complete archeology survey has been undertaken

6. Have the borders of the park been surveyed?

Park owned property has been surveyed with the exception of the latest portion of property acquired 1000 of approx. 1300 acres, the remaining 2100 acres within the designated boundary but not owned by the park has not been surveyed.

a. Are the borders well defined?

Yes. Especially two borders defined by highways

b. Are they fenced or walled? Please describe.

Park boundaries (land owned by the park is marked with barbed wire fence, some installed by the park, some existing ranch fence

7. Are there regular trails/routes used by persons illegally crossing the border and/or smuggling drugs that cross known cultural/natural resource areas? If so, please describe.

N/A. Border patrol examination found no trace of trails as of 2001

8. What is the average size of these groups passing through your park? (What are the total numbers of persons in these groups encountered per day/per week?) If specific data is not available, what is your best estimate of the numbers?

N/A

Padre Island National Seashore

Padre Island National Seashore encompasses 133,000 acres of America's vanishing barrier islands. Padre Island National Seashore is the longest section of undeveloped barrier island in the world, protecting rare coastal prairie; a complex, dynamic dune system; and the Laguna Madre, one of the few hypersaline lagoon environments left in the world. The National Seashore and surrounding waters provide important habitat for marine and terrestrial plants and animals, including a number of rare, threatened, and endangered species. Situated along the Central Flyway, Padre Island is a globally important area for over 350 migratory, overwintering, and resident bird species.

- a. Does the park have any historical data sources addressing cultural/natural resource impacts?

The only historical data addressing impacts from immigrant and drug smuggling is from a few case incident reports created in the past decade. No other data exists with the exception of anecdotal reports.

- b. Are copies of any of these items available for use in this report?

There are no reports available.

3. Has the documentation been incorporated into another type of report (e.g. incident reports, site surveys, etc.)?

Other than an occasional case incident report for some of the incidents, there is no other report available.

4. Is there any monitoring program in place to determine cultural/natural resource impacts?

There is no formal or scientific monitoring program currently taking place that documents the impacts to park resources from illegal activities. Impacts to sensitive park resources such as wind tidal flats have occurred from illegal off-road traffic which could be associated with drug or immigrant smuggling. These impacts are documented with some aerial photographs but the source of the impacts are generally unknown and could be caused by fisherman, researchers, or drug or immigrant smugglers.

- a. Is it regular or intermittent?

N/A

- b. How is the monitoring conducted?

N/A

- c. What are the time intervals of the monitoring?

N/A

- d. What is the geographic area covered?

N/A

- e. If a monitoring program is not in place, please describe the type of program that would be necessary.

A monitoring program to assess these impacts would likely require systematic gathering of data (location using GPS, extent of impact, photographs, type of impact, incident information name of perpetrator, reason activity took place, etc.), surveying of damage (what resources were damaged, which species, etc.), and routine monitoring of the recovery (what species are coming back, when, how is the habitat changing, etc.). Of course this would not be useful if it was not gathered for each incident whether or not someone was captured. A monitoring program would require additional staffing to not only patrol the area but also to conduct sampling and monitoring. Analysis of the gathered data could include basic statistics and reporting but having this analysis supplemented with GIS analysis would be more helpful. GIS analysis could demonstrate trends, presence and absence of activities, areas of impact, rates of recovery, etc.

degradation of the park's natural resources, including increased dune erosion, the setting of fires, litter, human waste, etc."

Saguaro National Park

This mountainous park is divided into two districts, the Rincon Mountain District east of Tucson, and the Tucson Mountain District west of Tucson. With people living between the two districts, Saguaro NP is a wilderness park with many urban park characteristics. Park resources include the Sonoran Desert with its abundant flora and fauna, wilderness, life zones ranging from the saguaro-filled desert floor to the ponderosa forests a mile above, ancient Indian campsites and petroglyphs and current Tohono O'Odham celebrations, historic remnants of ranching, mining, and homesteading.

RESPONSE-

1. Are there impacts (cultural/natural resources) that the park is experiencing as a result of undocumented aliens and/or illegal drug trafficking?

Some minor impacts, mostly to natural resources, are associated with motor vehicle accidents, as a result of high-speed travel or pursuits. Generally, by the time undocumented aliens and drug traffickers reach Saguaro, they are in vehicles and travelling on roadways. They have a considerable impact on our operation and protection staff time, but not so much directly on natural and cultural resources in the park. When vehicles containing illegals are stopped for traffic violations, it is common for all the occupants to flee into the desert. This results in some trampling of vegetation and soils, but it is quite scattered.

a. To what degree are undocumented aliens and/or illegal drug trafficking contributing to impacts to cultural/natural resources?

Same as above.

2. Is the park currently documenting the impacts in any way? (e.g. photos with dates, descriptions and locations; maps; aerial diagrams; GIS; narrative; etc.)

To a limited degree, only in motor vehicle accident reports where damage to resources occurs

a. Does the park have any historical data sources addressing cultural/natural resource impacts?

Not really, some old motor vehicle accident reports may identify specific accidents that involve these activities?

b. Are copies of any of these items available for use in this report?

Same as above...

3. Has the documentation been incorporated into another type of report (e.g. incident reports, site surveys, etc.)?

Same as above...

Tumacacori National Historic Park

Tumacacori National Historical Park in the upper Santa Cruz River Valley of southern Arizona is comprised of the abandoned ruins of three ancient Spanish colonial missions. The Park is located on 45 acres in three separate units. San José de Tumacacori and Los Santos Ángeles de Guevavi, established in 1691, are the two oldest missions in Arizona. The third unit, San Cayetano de Calabazas, was established in 1756.

RESPONSE-

1. Are there impacts (cultural/natural resources) that the park is experiencing as a result of undocumented aliens and/or illegal drug trafficking?

Yes, litter and social trails.

a. To what degree are undocumented aliens and/or illegal drug trafficking contributing to impacts to cultural/natural resources?

It is intermittent depending on the season. The social trails have created erosion and compacted soils. Litter is being washed downriver and damming the flow in some places, causing flooding and channel changes.

2. Is the park currently documenting the impacts in any way? (e.g. photos with dates, descriptions and locations; maps; aerial diagrams; GIS; narrative; etc.)

No

a. Does the park have any historical data sources addressing cultural/natural resource impacts?

Yes; aerial photos have been taken over the past 50 years, but not studied or compared.

b. Are copies of any of these items available for use in this report?

3. Has the documentation been incorporated into another type of report (e.g. incident reports, site surveys, etc.)?

4. Is there any monitoring program in place to determine cultural/natural resource impacts?

No

a. Is it regular or intermittent?

b. How is the monitoring conducted?

c. What are the time intervals of the monitoring?

d. What is the geographic area covered?

e. If a monitoring program is not in place, please describe the type of program that would be necessary.

LIST OF CONTACTS

These park staff members provided responses to the survey questionnaire:

AMIS: Joe Labadie, Greg Garetz, David Hays
CHAM: Cordell Roy, Jerry Flood
PAAL: Douglas Murphy
BIBE: Tom Alex, Mark Spier, Todd Brindle
PAIS: Darrell Echols
SAGU: Sarah Craighead, Bob Love, Meg Weesner
CHIR/FOBO: Andy Brinkley, Rick Roberts, Larry Ludwig
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CORO: Barbara Alberti
TUMA: Ann Rasor

The following received copies of the survey questionnaire:

SOAR: Dwayne Collier, Andy Hubbard, Dan Wirth
GUMO: Bill Reid
WHSA: Jim Mack
DENVER: John Wessels, Mike Britten, Randy King, Janet Wise
TEXAS: David Vela
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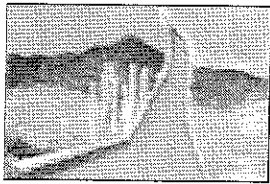
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Desert Invasion - U.S.

Arizona Bureau of Land Management Report on the impact of illegal aliens

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Summary of Arizona Bureau of Land Management Report, on the impact of illegal aliens July, 2002. (View the [full report](#) in Acrobat format).

Report to the House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations on Impacts Caused by Undocumented Aliens Crossing Federal Lands in Southeast Arizona. Executive Summary:

"First year estimates are 93.3 additional Full Time Equivalents (FTE) and \$23.5 million. To fully implement the five-year plan, is estimated to cost \$62.9 million."

The Immigration and Naturalization Service through the U.S. Border Patrol, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have prepared this report in response to requests by the House Committee on Appropriations to develop a coordinated plan to mitigate the environmental damage caused by illegal immigrant crossings through Federal lands in southeast Arizona and to report back to the Committee by October 1, 2001. This report is being submitted late due to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and the resulting need to review border issues with respect to homeland security. The coordinated plan for southeast Arizona is incorporated in this report as Appendix B.

The purpose of this report is to identify resources and actions necessary to mitigate and prevent environmental damage caused by illegal immigration through Federal lands in southeast Arizona and to restore safe public use and management of these lands through a multi-agency, coordinated effort. The detailed goals, objectives, and actions are stated in Appendix B. It does not address the social, economic or political factors that may be causing illegal immigration, the impacts on non-Federal jurisdictions (although most impacts are similar); and many other issues related to illegal immigration.

Southeast Arizona, as described in this report, has a total area of approximately 14,000 square miles (9 million acres). Approximately 37% of this area is administered by the Federal government and is the subject of this report. Southeast Arizona has 156 miles of border common with Mexico. This represents only 8% of the entire 1,952 miles of international border between the United States and Mexico. However, **the environmental and other impacts caused by undocumented aliens crossing Federal lands in southeast Arizona are much greater than this small percentage indicates.**

The natural and cultural resources in southeast Arizona have regional, national and international importance. There are four National Park Service units; three National Wildlife Refuges; 12 separate and uniquely distinct mountain ranges, "sky islands," in the Coronado National Forest; all or part of three National Conservation Areas, one National Monument, and other public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); two military installations; and land held in trust for the Tohono O'odham Nation (San Xavier del Bac Mission) and the Pasqua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona. Additionally, Southeast Arizona includes 19 areas (three in National Parks, eight in National Forests, and eight on lands administered by BLM) designated as wilderness by the United States Congress and four wilderness study areas.

Southeast Arizona is a major international tourist destination due largely to its historical significance and the abundance and uniqueness of its natural and cultural resources. Recreation and tourism opportunities bring millions of visitors to the area each year. It is nationally and internationally recognized for its extraordinary bird watching opportunities, with over 400 species of birds recorded.

As a direct result of an unusual variety of climate and geology, there is a wide variety of vegetation and wildlife species in southeast Arizona, including a large number of species designated as threatened or endangered under provisions of the Endangered Species Act. There are numerous prehistoric and historic sites and important cultural landscapes in southeast Arizona. Additionally, more than 100 properties are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Because Federal lands in southeast Arizona are, for the most part, remote and isolated areas adjacent or in close proximity to the Mexican border, they have become major arteries for smuggling humans and controlled substances into the United States. As a result, **the extremely valuable, and many times irreplaceable, natural and cultural resources mentioned above are in jeopardy.**

Undocumented aliens crossing Federal land in southeast Arizona not only cause damage to natural and cultural resources; they impact Federal land visitors, public services, Federal employees working in the

area, and residents and businesses located on Federal and reservation lands. Furthermore, undocumented aliens themselves are impacted as they cross Federal lands due to the remoteness of many of these lands and the unexpected harsh conditions that they encounter there.

Certain Federal lands in southeast Arizona can no longer be used safely by the public or Federal employees due to the significance of smuggling undocumented aliens and controlled substances into the United States. The mere number of undocumented aliens traveling in the border area intimidates legitimate visitors and creates a reluctance by some of the public to use public lands. The volume of undocumented aliens also impacts Federal and other government employees' ability to feel safe while doing their job in the field. Staff exposure while conducting resource management activities in certain areas along the border is a serious safety concern. **Ranchers, farmers, miners and other legitimate users of Federal lands are heavily impacted financially by smuggling operations that cut fences, breakdown or leave gates open, damage water supplies, steal or damage equipment, and disrupt grazing and irrigation schedules.**

Breaking and entering and burglaries along the border are common and include historic and government structures, employee and private residences, and businesses.

Federal law enforcement officers assigned to land management agencies and tribal police often face situations where they are at personal risk and must deal with overwhelming odds. Due to the remoteness of many Federal lands, timely assistance from other law enforcement agencies is not always possible. This leaves Federal land management law enforcement officers in difficult situations for extended periods of time because no back-up law enforcement officers are available from other cooperating agencies.

Literally hundreds, if not thousands of new trails and roads have been created on Federal lands in southeastern Arizona by undocumented alien crossings. This proliferation of trails and roads damages and destroys cactus and other sensitive vegetation, disrupts or prohibits revegetation, disturbs wildlife and their cover and travel routes, causes soil compaction and erosion, impacts stream bank stability, and often times confuses legitimate users of trails and roads on Federal lands.

Large numbers of vehicles are abandoned by smugglers and undocumented aliens. Such vehicles are difficult and costly for agencies to remove.

The character of Congressionally designated wilderness areas has been reduced by the creation of unwanted trails and roads, damage to existing trails, and large amounts of trash. Encounters with large groups of undocumented aliens reduces the quality of the wilderness experience for many visitors. Law enforcement operations and enforcement related aircraft flights in wilderness areas reduce the quality of the wilderness experience.

The international border fence is repeatedly cut or torn down in many locations forcing Federal agency staff and grazing permittees to constantly make repairs. Horses and cows from Mexico trespassing on Federal lands in the United States are a significant and reoccurring problem. Gates are rammed, security locks are cut, signs are driven over and heavy damage or destruction of water developments and other improvements by undocumented aliens traveling through Federal lands and seeking drinking water in remote locations occur regularly. Recreational, cultural and administrative sites are repeatedly vandalized and damaged. All of this adds significantly to the cost of maintaining Federal improvements.

Tons of trash and high concentrations of human waste are left behind by undocumented aliens. This impacts wildlife, vegetation and water quality in the uplands, in washes and along rivers and streams. This also detracts from scenic qualities and can effect human and animal health from spread of bacteria and disease.

Warming and cooking fires built and abandoned by undocumented aliens have caused wildfires that have destroyed valuable natural and cultural resources. The fires pose a threat to visitors, residents and Federal and local firefighters as well as to the undocumented aliens camping in or migrating through the area.

State, county and local governments and private property owners experience most of the same problems caused by undocumented aliens crossing their land as mentioned herein. Additionally, there is a significant increased workload on Federal and local court systems and increased costs to medical providers caring for the sick and injured. Healthcare providers especially are heavily impacted.

A number of actions have taken place within the past year that respond to the concerns expressed by Congress regarding the impacts caused by undocumented aliens crossing Federal lands in southeastern Arizona (and elsewhere along the border). These include a memorandum of understanding between the U.S. Border Patrol, Department of the Interior bureaus, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service covering activities in Arizona and New Mexico; the coordinated plan provided herein as Appendix B; and a Department of the Interior Southwest Border Law Enforcement Strategy.

A firm commitment by local Federal land managers has been made to address the environmental damage and other impacts on Federal lands caused by undocumented aliens in southeast Arizona. As indicated in the Southeast Arizona Coordinated Plan to Mitigate and Prevent Environmental and Other Impacts Caused by Undocumented Aliens Crossing Federal Land (Appendix B), numerous efforts will be initiated and accomplished using available resources. This plan identifies estimates of additional resources to accomplish the goals set out by federal land managers. The resource needs identified in this report will be evaluated for consideration in future budgets.

This report identifies estimates of additional funding and personnel to clean up, monitor biological impacts, remove vehicles, rebuild and repair fences and other damaged facilities, restore damaged habitats, and protect water management improvements; additional law enforcement personnel to provide public safety and security for staff, equipment, and facilities, and to deter undocumented aliens from accessing Federal lands; vehicle barriers along the border that will not impact wildlife migration, upgraded all-weather roads along the border with cattle guards, towers and cameras at key locations, signs to warn visitors of potential dangers, and signs to notify undocumented aliens of the risks and hazards they face.

First year estimates are 93.3 additional Full Time Equivalents (FTE) and \$23.5 million. To fully implement the five-year plan, is estimated to cost \$62.9 million. Table 4 is a summary of the additional resources identified by agencies to implement the first and subsequent years of the coordinated plan for southeast Arizona. A detailed estimate for each agency in southeast Arizona can be found in Appendix K.

NOTE: U.S. Border Patrol estimated needs are in the process of being submitted to Congress in House Report 106-680, Joint Plan to Protect Natural and Human Resources and Provide Increased Border Protection Throughout the Southwest, and therefore are not included here. This has been done to avoid confusion and duplication.

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